

SETTING

Veterinary Clinic

CLIENT

You have a two-year-old male rabbit named Larry that has recently become very aggressive. The rabbit attacks you whenever you reach into his cage to feed him. You want some advice about what to do.

TASK

- When asked, say your rabbit lunges at you as soon as you open the cage, and he tries to bite you. This happens every time and you don't know what to do. You have two children and you are worried the rabbit will hurt them.
- Explain that your two young children do tease the rabbit a bit, and you wondered if this may have caused the rabbit to act this way.
- Ask what desexing the rabbit entails.
- Say that the procedure doesn't sound very nice. You know your children will be upset but maybe the best option is to consider putting the rabbit down.
- Say that you need some time to think before you book an appointment, so will contact the vet when you have decided.

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VET

Your client is the owner of Larry, a two-year-old male rabbit. The rabbit has recently become aggressive, attacking the client whenever he/she reaches into its cage. The client has come to discuss what can be done.

TASK

- Find out about the rabbit's behaviour (e.g., aggression, biting, etc.).
- Explain possible reasons for the rabbit's aggression (e.g., defending his territory, behaviour of the children, etc.). Explore relevance of these to the client.
- Reassure the client about the rabbit's behaviour (aggression is common as they mature sexually, etc.). Advise client to consider desexing the rabbit.
- Give information about desexing (rabbit examined then anaesthetised, testicles removed, dissolvable stitches used for wound, etc.).
- Reassure the client about the procedure (pain injection given, rabbit made comfortable, go home the same day, etc.). Outline the benefits of desexing (longer/healthier life, easier to manage/bond with, etc.). Establish patient's willingness to book an appointment for desexing.